

## Message Text

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PAGE 01 JIDDA 05734 171456Z

ACTION EB-08

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 EA-07 NEA-10 ISO-00 ERDA-05 AID-05

CEA-01 CIAE-00 COME-00 DODE-00 FEAE-00 FPC-01

H-01 INR-07 INT-05 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 OMB-01

PM-05 USIA-06 OES-07 SP-02 SS-15 STR-04 TRSE-00

ACDA-07 /118 W

-----067476 171845Z /43

R 171415Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9324

AMCONSUL DHAHRAN

INFO AMEMBASSY ABU DHABI

AMEMBASSY DOHA

AMEMBASSY KUWAIT

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY MANAMA

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY TEHRAN

AMEMBASSY TOKYO

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ENRG, SA

SUBJECT: REPORTED SAUDI OIL PRODUCTION CUTBACK

1. LOCAL PRESS HAS REPEATED STORY RUN BY MIDDLE EAST ECONOMIC SURVEY (MEES) IN BEIRUT, TO EFFECT THAT SAUDI OIL PRODUCTION TO BE CUT BACK BY 700,000 BARRELS/DAY FOR THREE MONTH PERIOD STARTING SEPTEMBER 1. ACCORDING MEES, CUTBACK IS TO BE CARRIED OUT AT ORDER OF MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM, IN ORDER TO CARRY OUT MAJOR FIELD PRESSURE TESTS. STORY DOES NOT CLARIFY BASE POINT FROM WHICH CUTBACK IS TO BE EFFECTED, BUT GOES ON TO SAY THAT ARAMCO PARENTS ARE NEGOTIATING WITH SAG ON HOW CUTBACK IS TO BE APPORTIONED.

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2. ARAMCO SOURCES WHOM WE HAVE CONTACTED SO FAR HAVE SAID THAT ARTICLE DOES NOT SQUARE WITH ANY INFO AVAILABLE TO THEM, NOR ARE THEY AWARE OF ANY CHANGE IN OVERALL RATE OF PRODUCTION. THEY HAVE, HOWEVER, STATED THAT THEY CANNOT GIVE US CURRENT PRODUCTION FIGURES, WHICH MUST COME FROM MINISTRY OF PETROLEUM. THEY STATED THAT COMPANY

IS CONSTANTLY ADJUSTING PRODUCTION RATES FROM ITS SEVERAL PRODUCING FIELDS TO TEST EFFECTIVENESS OF ITS PRESSURE MAINTENANCE PROGRAM. THEY ADDED THAT BERRI FIELD WILL INDEED BE SHUT DOWN FOR UP TO THREE DAYS IN NEAR FUTURE TO TEST MAJOR UNDERWATER TRUNK PIPELINE, BUT THAT EXPORTS WILL NOT BE AFFECTED IN VIEW OF HIGH INVENTORIES NOW BEING HELD.

3. WE AND CONGEN DHAHRAN WILL FOLLOW UP WITH OIL COMPANY AND MINPET OFFICIALS. ENIGMATIC NATURE OF INITIAL ARAMCO RESPONSE, HOWEVER, AND EMPHASIS ON PRESSURE MAINTENANCE, INDICATE THAT WALL STREET JOURNAL'S AUGUST 16 REPORT THAT SAG HAS REIMPOSED PRODUCTION CEILINGS ON BERRI AND GHAWAR FIELDS MAY BE ACCURATE. WEST

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## Message Attributes

**Automatic Decaptioning:** X  
**Capture Date:** 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am  
**Channel Indicators:** n/a  
**Current Classification:** UNCLASSIFIED  
**Concepts:** PETROLEUM, PRODUCTION  
**Control Number:** n/a  
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**Decaption Date:** 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am  
**Decaption Note:**  
**Disposition Action:** RELEASED  
**Disposition Approved on Date:**  
**Disposition Case Number:** n/a  
**Disposition Comment:** 25 YEAR REVIEW  
**Disposition Date:** 22 May 2009  
**Disposition Event:**  
**Disposition History:** n/a  
**Disposition Reason:**  
**Disposition Remarks:**  
**Document Number:** 1977JIDDA05734  
**Document Source:** CORE  
**Document Unique ID:** 00  
**Drafter:** n/a  
**Enclosure:** n/a  
**Executive Order:** N/A  
**Errors:** N/A  
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**Litigation History:**  
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**Message ID:** 382d6b59-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc  
**Office:** ACTION EB  
**Original Classification:** LIMITED OFFICIAL USE  
**Original Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Original Previous Classification:** n/a  
**Original Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
**Page Count:** 2  
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**Previous Handling Restrictions:** n/a  
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**Review Action:** RELEASED, APPROVED  
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**Review Withdrawn Fields:** n/a  
**SAS ID:** 1579898  
**Secure:** OPEN  
**Status:** NATIVE  
**Subject:** REPORTED SAUDI OIL PRODUCTION CUTBACK  
**TAGS:** ENRG, SA  
**To:** STATE DHAHRAN  
**Type:** TE  
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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
Declassified/Released  
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22 May 2009  
**Markings:** Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009